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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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VERIZON PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1320 North Court House Road 9th Floor ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909			EXAMINER GAY, SONIA L	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/17/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/721,009	Applicant(s) RAJAGOPALAN ET AL.	
	Examiner SONIA GAY	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63, 67 - 69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 60, 63, 68 and 69 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29, 31 - 59, 61, 62, 67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/02/2010</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendment filed 01/26/2010. Claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69 stand allowed. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed June 23, 2010 has been entered. Claims 1, 7-12, 14, 15, 17, 23 – 25, 31, 37 – 42, 44, 45, 53 - 56, 61, 62, and 67 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1- 63 and 67 - 69 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60 – 63, and 67 – 69 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The indicated allowability of claims 30,60, 63, 68, and 69 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. Claims 30, 60, 63, 68 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864).

For claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69, Rodman et al. teaches a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer- enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (Abstract; [0034]), comprising: receiving information pertaining to a computer-

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enhanced call between a plurality of conference users, including an initiating user, that was setup by the initiating user ([0039 - 0043]); sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to a device associated with one of the plurality of conference users ([0043]); receiving a response to the notification ([0045] [0047]); establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the response ([0048]); and establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call (authorization as having the correct code or having the capabilities to access the data conference, [0046 - 0048]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1- 16, 31- 46 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dognata et al. (US 6,798,753) in view of Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864), and further in view of Dalal et al. (US 2003/0015588).

For claims 1, 14, 31, 44, and 61, Dognata et al. discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); contacting one or more conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail)

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associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from one or more conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response (col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Yet, Dognata et al. fails to teach wherein the contacting comprises initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including: initiating contact with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user; determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information; providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device; and, establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively during the conference call.

However, Rodman et al. discloses a method for the purpose of coordinating a data conference between conference endpoints which can be connected to both the PSTN and a LAN to establish both an audio conference call and interactive data collaboration, wherein a subset or the users that are authorized to participate in the data collaboration share data interactively (Abstract; [0011] [0012] [0023] [0026 – 0030] [0032] [0033] [0038 - 0043] [0045 -0050]).

Moreover, Dalal et al. discloses a method for the purpose of enabling multimedia conferencing services (Abstract; [0010]), comprising: initiating contact with one or more

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conference users associated with a conference call, including initiating contact with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user (INVITE_ALERT request is sent to the destination host, [0042 – 0044] [0046]); receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user (JOIN request with selected media types as telephone, [0051]); determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information (telephone as preferred device, [0051] [0083]); providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device (dialing the telephone, [0084] [0085] [0088] [0089]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dognata et al. with the teachings of Rodman et al. and Dalal et al. for the purpose of establishing a data conference amongst a subset of the conference users with the ability to communicate across both the PSTN and the Internet (Dognata et al., column 3 lines 42 – 65; column 4 lines 36 – 44; column 5 lines 16 – 33, 67 – column 6 line 2) using either separate or single devices and the authorization to participate in the collaboration to share data interactively, and further comprising retrieving the telephone contact numbers that are input to the system as disclosed above in both Dognata et al. and Rodman et al. by: initiating contact with conference users, including contacting a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user; determining a preferred device, i.e. a telephone, for the first conference user based on the call information; and, providing the notification of the computer-enhanced call, as disclosed above in Dognata et al., to the first conference user at the preferred device, i.e. the telephone.

In regards to claims 2 and 32, Dognata et al. et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises: scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event (Dognata et al., col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 3 and 33, Dognata et al. et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application (See Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) associated with the initiating user (Dognata et al. et al., col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 4 and 34, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user (Dognata et al. et al., col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39).

In regards to claims 5 and 35, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users comprises: collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure (Dognata et al., Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure (Dognata et al., Fig. 2 and personal address book 33) based on the conference user identifiers (See col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 6 and 36, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application (e.g., calendar view user interface 22) and the second data structure comprises an address book listing (e.g., personal address book 33)

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at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information (Dognata et al., col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 7 and 37, Dognata et al. and Dalal et al. disclose the method and apparatus, wherein initiating contact with the conference users comprises: collecting contact information associated with the conference users; and attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-9) (Dalal et al., [0089] [0091]).

In regards to claims 8 and 38, Dognata et al. and Dalal et al. disclose the method and apparatus, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and attempting to establish a communication connection comprises: dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-9) (Dalal et al., [0089] [0091]).

In regards to claims 9 and 39, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device comprises: sending the notification, presenting the first conference user with an option for accepting or declining the computer enhanced call (Dognata et al., answering or not answering, column 6 lines 44 – 52).

In regards to claims 10 and 40, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein establishing a conference call comprises: connecting calls to devices of conference users based on the at least one response received from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54).

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In regards to claims 11 and 41, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein connecting comprises: bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 12 and 42, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call by at least one of: receiving a communication from a conference user to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user; receiving a communication declining the call without any further processing by a conference user; receiving a communication from a conference user to set an alternate contact telephone number; and receiving a communication from a conference user to set a period of time in which the conference user is to be contacted again (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 33-35).

In regards to claims 13 and 43, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-16).

In regards to claims 15 and 45, Dalal et al. discloses the method, wherein the determining the preferred device comprises: retrieving call preference information corresponding to the first conference user based on the call information users; selecting the preferred device for the first conference user based on the retrieved call preference information (Dalal et al., [0042 – 0044] [0046] [0051]);

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In regards to claims 16 and 46, Dalal et al. discloses receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration (Dalal et al., [0042 – 0044] [0046] [0051]).

5. Claims 17 -29, 47 -59, 62, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dognata et al. et al. (US 6,798,753), Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864), and further in view of Wu (US 6,275,575).

For claims 17, 27, 47, 57, 62, and 67, Dognata et al. et al. discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); contacting conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail) associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to the first conference user at a device (col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Yet, Dognata et al. fails to teach: initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating contact with a first conference

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user at a device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user; determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information storing data identifying a first device and a second device associated with a first conference user, the calendar information reflecting that the first device is preferred by the first conference user to share data interactively in the computer-enhanced conference call during a first time period and the second device is preferred to share data interactively in the computer-enhanced conference call during a second time period; and, establishing a collaboration to share the data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively by the first user during the conference call.

However, Rodman et al. discloses a method for the purpose of coordinating a data conference between conference endpoints which can be connected to both the PSTN and a LAN to establish both an audio conference call and interactive data collaboration, wherein a subset or the users that are authorized to participate in the data collaboration share data interactively (Abstract; [0011] [0012] [0023] [0026 – 0030] [0032] [0033] [0038 - 0043] [0045 -0050]).

Moreover, Wu discloses a method and system for the purpose of initiating conferences to preferred devices of conference users wherein contact is initiated with one or more conference users, including: initiating contact with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user (invitation as initial contact, column 9 lines 50 – 59); receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user (acceptance or declination of invitation with associated identifier, Fig.7, column 9 lines 50 - 59, 66 - column 10 line 5); and,

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determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information comprising a daily schedule with preferred devices and associated time periods of use (Fig.6; Abstract; column 2 lines 53 – column 3 line 12; column 6 lines 16 – 65; column 8 lines 38 – column 9 line 25, 50 – column 10 line 5.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dognata et al. with the teachings of Rodman et al. and Wu for the purpose of establishing a data conference amongst a subset of the conference users with the ability to communicate across both the PSTN and the Internet (Dognata et al., column 3 lines 42 – 65; column 4 lines 36 – 44; column 5 lines 16 – 33, 67 – column 6 line 2) using either separate or single devices and the authorization to participate in the collaboration to share data interactively during the conference call, and further comprising: retrieving the telephone contact numbers that are input to the system as disclosed above in Dognata et al. and Rodman et al. by: initiating contact with the conference users, including contacting a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user; determining a preferred device, i.e. a telephone, for the first conference user based on call and calendar information; and, forwarding a conference call to the first conference user at the preferred device .

Claims 18 – 26 and 28 - 29 are rejected for the same reasons disclosed above in the rejection of claims 2 –9, 12, and 15 - 16.

Claims 48 – 56 and 58 – 59 are rejected for the same reasons disclosed above in the rejection of claims 2 – 9, 12, and 15 - 16.

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Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60 – 63, and 67 – 69 and respective dependents have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONIA GAY whose telephone number is (571)270-1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Sonia Gay/

Examiner, Art Unit 2614

September 2, 2010

/Ahmad F Matar/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614